GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Post Harvest Storage
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether post harvest storage of agricultural produces is a big problem of the farmers in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard; and
(c) the effective steps taken by the Government to prevent damage to foodgrains due to natural calamities such as floods, droughts and frost?

Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)
(a)to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 25.07.2017 IN THE LOK SABHA
(a): With the increasing production of foodgrains, pulses and oil seeds in the country more post harvest storage facilities will be required. Similarly, the horticulture sector has seen a robust growth during last 10 years. The estimated production of fruits and vegetables for the year 2016-17 is 287 Million MT which is more than the estimated production of foodgrains which is 272 Million MT. In view of this growth in horticulture sector more cold chain infrastructure is required in the country.
(b): As per data of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, the gap in cold chain infrastructure is as follows:

SL	Component	Existing Capacity (2014)	Approximate Requirement
1	Integrated Pack Houses	250 numbers	70,000 numbers
2	Reefer Trucks	Less than 10,000 numbers	62,000 numbers
3	Cold stores (Bulk & distribution hubs)	320 lakh MT	350 lakh MT
4	Ripening Chambers	800 numbers	9000 numbers

To strengthen cold storage facilities the Government is implementing following schemes:
i. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH): Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare is implementing MIDH by subsuming the schemes such as National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH), Coconut Development Board (CDB), and Central Institute of Horticulture (CIH) under which financial assistance is provided for various activities on horticulture development from production to post harvest management including establishment of cold storage infrastructure. The assistance is available in the form of subsidy @ 35% (for general areas) and 50% (for hilly and scheduled areas) of capital cost of the project for both public and private sector enterprises. The component is demand/ entrepreneur driven through commercial ventures for which Government assistance is credit linked and back ended.
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ii. Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI): Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Cold-chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure since 2008-09. The financial assistance is provided in the form of grant-in-aid @ 35% - 50% of the total cost of plant & machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 Cr per project, for setting up the Coldchain infrastructure. Integrated Cold-chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, group of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer"s Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc.
iii. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA): Ministry of Commerce through Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) provides 90% grant-in-aid to State Government agencies for setting up of common infrastructure including cold storage facilities for export oriented units. Assistance to private exporters is also

available up to 40% as subsidy with a ceiling of Rs.7.50 lakh to Rs. 75.00 lakh for different post-harvest components including cold storages.

iv. National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC): NCDC provides financial assistance for setting up of cold storages in cooperative sector. NCDC has dovetailed its cold storage programme with Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme of MIDH under which assistance @ 35% - 50% is available.

To augment and modernize the storage facilities Government is implementing the following schemes:

i. Integrated Scheme for Agriculture Marketing (ISAM): Under Integrated Scheme for Agricultural Marketing (ISAM), the subsidy @ 25% of the capital cost for general category beneficiaries and @ 33.33% for special category beneficiaries is provided for construction/creation of scientific godowns, their renovation and other infrastructure in field of agricultural marketing.

ii. Private Entrepreneurs Guarantee (PEG) Scheme: Under this Scheme, storage capacity is created by private parties, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Agencies for guaranteed hiring by FCI. A capacity of 138.51 lakh MT has already been completed as on 30.06.2017.

iii. Central Sector Scheme: This scheme is focussed on the North Eastern States. Funds are released by the Government to FCI and also directly to the State Governments for construction of godowns. During 12th Five Year Plan, a capacity of 1,17,680 MT in North Eastern (NE) States and 20,000 MT in other than NE States has been completed by FCI. Further, a capacity of 51,795 MT has been created by State Governments.

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iv. Construction of steel silos: Government of India has also approved action plan for construction of steel silos in the country for a capacity of 100 LMT in 3 phases. Against the target of 36.25 LMT for selection of silo operators in Phase−I, tenders have been awarded for 37.50 LMT. Further, 6.25 LMT silos have been added under the above action plan, in addition to 5.5 LMT silos already available with FCI.

(c): The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Food Corporation of India (FCI) & Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have prescribed standard specifications for construction of foodgrain storage godowns. While taking up construction, the central agencies namely FCI & CWC and State Agencies follow the prescribed construction design for godowns in order to ensure that the foodgrains are protected from natural calamities like rains and floods. Similarly, only scientifically constructed godowns are hired from private parties. In addition, FCI takes the following steps to avoid damage to foodgrains:

1. Foodgrains are stored in scientifically constructed godowns. Some foodgrains are stored for short periods in CAP (cover and plinth) in peak procurement season.
2. Adequate dunnage materials such as wooden crates, bamboo mats, polythene sheets are used to check migration of moisture from the floor to the foodgrains.
3. Prophylactic (spraying of insecticides) and curative treatments (fumigation) are carried out regularly and fumigation covers, nylon ropes, nets etc are provided for control of insects & pests in all the godowns.
4. Regular periodic inspections of the stocks/godowns are undertaken by qualified and trained staff and officers.
5. The principle of "First in First Out" (FIFO) is followed to the extent possible so as to avoid longer storage of foodgrains in godowns.
6. Only covered rail wagons are used for movement of foodgrains so as to avoid damage during transit.
7. Damage Monitoring Cells have been set up at District, Regional and Zonal levels to regularly monitor quality of stocks and reduce damages.

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